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Minnesota credit union committees recognize key volunteers

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – The Minnesota Family Involvement Council (FIC) and Minnesota's Credit Union for Kids (CUFK) committees recently honored two individuals for time and effort spent on their respective committees. LeAnn Achtenberg of Anoka Hennepin Credit Union and Jeff Schwalen of Hiway Federal Credit Union received their volunteer awards on April 12 at an awards banquet. The banquet was held in conjunction with the Minnesota Credit Union Network's (MnCUN's) 2008 Annual Meeting & Convention.



MnCUN President & CEO Mark D. Cummins presents awards to LeAnn Achtenberg (above), FIC Outstanding Volunteer, and Jeff Schwalen (below), CUs for Kids Volunteer of the Year.



Achtenberg is the Vice President of Marketing at Anoka Hennepin Credit Union in Coon Rapids, where she has worked for nearly three years. Having a passion for financial literacy, she joined the FIC in 2001. Over the years, she has served the committee in a variety of capacities including secretary from 2005-2007 and chair, a position she has held since March of 2007. She also served on the National Youth Involvement Board from 1997-2004. On the FIC, Achtenberg has been active in coordinating the committee's silent auction donations and organizing the FIC's scholarship competition in addition to contributing to numerous other committee projects.

The FIC is a volunteer-based organization run by credit union professionals and board members. Its mission is to enhance the future of the credit union movement by promoting financial awareness, financial education and full-family involvement in Minnesota credit unions. The recipient of this annual award is voted on by members of the council.

"I am greatly honored to receive this award and recognition from the committee," Achtenberg said. "This award motivates me to reach higher and work even harder for the committee. While I am being recognized for my service, I know that this award would not have come without the support of an incredible team."

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Schwalen earned the CUFK Volunteer of the Year honor based on his involvement in committee fundraisers and activities. He is Hiway Federal Credit Union's President and has held that position since 2003. Schwalen joined the committee in 2004 and has been active in the committee's activities over the past four years. The Volunteer of Year honor was awarded to Schwalen for his involvement in the committee's golf and trivia fundraiser subcommittees along with his regular attendance to the committee's meeting and involvement in other committee activities.

"Although I didn't start out the year in pursuit of the Volunteer of the Year Award, it is such an honor to receive it," Schwalen said. "I have always felt that we should help out those who can least fend for themselves and helping children with major medical issues is a great way to do just that."

Last year, Minnesota raised \$128,000 for Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in St. Paul, with outreach clinics located around the state of Minnesota. The committee set its 2008 fundraising goal at \$145,000. Nationally, fundraising for CUFK takes place in all 50 states.

"Both LeAnn and Jeff have selflessly dedicated their time and resources to the committees. They have a passion for their committees' causes and their enthusiasm is evident in their commitment," said Rachel Kuenzel MnCUN Communications Specialist and FIC and CUFK Network liaison. "They are more than deserving of the honor that their committees have bestowed on them."

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*The **Minnesota Credit Union Network** is an organization representing the state's 162 not-for-profit cooperative credit unions serving more than 1.5 million member-owners in the state. For more information, visit www.mncun.org.*